

Claims

1. A storage cell (2) for receiving water from a paved surface (6) defining an upper boundary of the cell (2), a remaining boundary of the cell being defined by means of a water-retaining layer (8), characterised in that the cell further
5 comprises means (20,32,40,52) for enhancing the evaporation rate of the water in the cell.
2. A storage cell as claimed in claim 1, wherein the evaporation enhancement means comprises means (30,20) defining at least one ventilated pathway (20) within the cell, the pathway (20) communicating at each of its ends with the
10 atmosphere outside the pavement (4).
3. A storage cell as claimed in claim 2, characterised in that the pathway (20) is defined by means of absorbent or adsorbent surfaces (32,12) that detain water in contact with the airflow in the pathway.
4. A storage cell as claimed in claim 1 or 2, wherein the evaporation
15 enhancement means comprises an array of wicks (40) depending into water normally stored within the lower part of the cell and lifting it into an upper part normally above the water level.
5. A storage cell as claimed in claim 4, wherein the wicks (40) are made of capillary matting.
- 20 6. A storage cell as claimed in claim 1, wherein the evaporation enhancement means comprises means (52) for lifting water from a lower part of the cell (2) and means (54) for applying the water to the pavement.
7. A storage cell as claimed in claim 6, wherein the applying means comprises a spray.
- 25 8. A storage cell as claimed in any one of the preceding claims, wherein there is no outfall from the cell.

9. A storage cell as claimed in any one of the preceding claims, wherein the water-retaining layer (8) is defined by means of a permeable medium that permits infiltration of water into surrounding soil without permitting migration of material into the cell.

AMENDED CLAIMS

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Original claims 1-9 replaced by new claims 1-9 (2 pages).]

1. A storage cell (2) for receiving water from a paved surface (6) defining an upper boundary of the cell (2), a remaining boundary of the cell being defined by means of a water-retaining layer (8), characterised in that the cell further
5 defines at least one ventilated pathway (20) within the cell, the pathway (20) communicating at each of its ends with the atmosphere outside the pavement (4) to provide means (20,32) for enhancing the evaporation rate of the water in the cell.
2. A storage cell as claimed in claim 1, characterised in that the pathway (20) is
10 defined by means of absorbent or adsorbent surfaces (32,12) that detain water in contact with the airflow in the pathway.
3. A storage cell (2) as claimed in claim 1, wherein the evaporation enhancement means comprises an array of wicks (40) depending into water normally stored within the lower part of the cell and lifting it into an upper part normally above
15 the water level.
4. A storage cell (2) for receiving water from a paved surface (6) defining an upper boundary of the cell (2), a remaining boundary of the cell being defined by means of a water-retaining layer (8), characterised in that the cell further comprises an array of wicks (40) depending into water normally stored within
20 the lower part of the cell and lifting it into an upper part normally above the water level for enhancing the evaporation rate of the water in the cell.
5. A storage cell as claimed in claim 4, wherein the wicks (40) are made of capillary matting.
6. A storage cell (2) for receiving water from a paved surface (6) defining an
25 upper boundary of the cell (2), a remaining boundary of the cell being defined by means of a water-retaining layer (8), characterised in that the cell further comprises means (52) for lifting water from a lower part of the cell (2) and

means (54) for applying the water to the pavement to provide evaporation enhancement means.

7. A storage cell as claimed in claim 6, wherein the applying means comprises a spray.
- 5 8. A storage cell as claimed in any one of the preceding claims, wherein there is no outfall from the cell.
9. A storage cell as claimed in any one of the preceding claims, wherein the water-retaining layer (8) is defined by means of a permeable medium that permits infiltration of water into surrounding soil without permitting migration
10 of material into the cell.